

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing multiple grades of wireless service to ~~multiple~~ a plurality of field-users subscriber units for communication of data between a base station and the plurality of multiple subscriber units over one or more CDMA communication channels, each grade of service having a corresponding priority level, the method comprising the steps of:
 ~~determining when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~
 reserving a bandwidth and dividing the bandwidth into a plurality of traffic channels;
 maintaining a connection between ~~multiple~~ the plurality of subscriber units and the base station;
 detecting a request by ~~multiple field units~~ a plurality of subscriber units to simultaneously transmit data to the base station; and
 identifying a priority level of ~~user~~ a subscriber unit requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels for transmitting data information to the base station;
 allocating traffic channels for transmitting data information from the subscriber unit using the identified priority level of the subscriber unit depending on whether a previous historical usage of resources by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that:
 if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is higher

than the threshold, the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is assigned a lower priority level for transmitting data information, wherein the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to use of~~ fewer channels than are otherwise ~~allowed~~ allocated ~~when if assigned~~ a higher priority level ~~is assigned~~, and

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is lower than the threshold, the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is assigned a higher priority level for transmitting data information, the high priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the ~~user~~ subscriber unit use of the more channels than are otherwise ~~allowed~~ allocated ~~when if assigned~~ a lower priority level ~~is assigned~~; and

reserving ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels for ~~the users at~~ a plurality of subscriber units assigned the lowest priority levels and creating a lowest priority queue to allow at least some access to the traffic channels to the plurality of subscriber units ~~users with~~ assigned the lowest priority; and

~~assigning~~ allocating the traffic channels for communication between the base station and subscriber units ~~based~~ depending upon the subscriber unit's ~~corresponding~~ assigned priority level of ~~requesting field units so~~ identified ~~when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the~~ predetermined threshold.

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1 wherein the identified priority level of the ~~user~~ subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic channels defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources ~~entitled to~~ for the ~~user~~ subscriber unit to transmit data information from ~~a~~ the subscriber unit to the base station over ~~multiple assigned~~ the allocated traffic channels of the wireless

communication system, and the method further comprising:

detecting whether a predetermined time limit for ~~the previously assigned~~ allocated traffic channels has been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data information based on ~~a corresponding~~ the assigned priority level of the ~~user~~ subscriber unit and, if so, the method further comprising:

discontinuing ~~a data transfer~~ the transmission of data information by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit;

deallocating use of previously ~~assigned~~ allocated channels; and

decreasing the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocating the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to~~ use of fewer traffic channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for providing multiple grades of service in a ~~demand~~ access wireless communication system, comprising:

~~identifying when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~

identifying a priority level of a ~~user~~ subscriber unit requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ a plurality of traffic channels for transmitting data information to a base station depending on whether a previous historical usage of resources by that ~~user~~ subscriber unit exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that:

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is higher than the threshold, the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is assigned a lower priority level for transmitting data information, wherein the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to~~ use of fewer

channels than are otherwise allocated ~~allowed when if assigned~~ a high priority level ~~is assigned~~, and if the previous historical usage by the user subscriber unit is lower than the threshold, the user subscriber unit is assigned a higher priority level for transmitting data information, wherein the high priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the user subscriber unit ~~use of~~ more channels than are otherwise allowed ~~allocated when if assigned~~ a lower priority level ~~is assigned~~;

reserving ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels for a plurality of subscriber units assigned ~~the users at the a~~ lowest priority levels and creating a lowest priority queue to allow at least some access to the traffic channels to the plurality of subscriber units assigned ~~for users with the~~ lowest priority level; and

allocating ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels to the user subscriber unit depending upon the subscriber unit's corresponding assigned priority level ~~so identified when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the predetermined threshold~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the priority level of the subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic channels for transmitting data defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources entitled to the user subscriber unit to transmit data information from ~~a~~ the subscriber unit to the base station over ~~multiple assigned~~ the allocated traffic channels of the wireless communication system.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 5 further comprising: detecting whether a predetermined time limit for the allocated channels has

been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data information based on a ~~corresponding~~ the assigned priority level of the ~~user~~ subscriber unit and, if so, the method further comprising:

discontinuing ~~a data transfer~~ the transmission of data information by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit;

deallocating use of previously ~~assigned~~ allocated channels; and
decreasing the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocating the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to~~ use of fewer traffic channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein a ~~user~~ subscriber unit is allocated resources depending on a cumulative amount of data information previously ~~transferred~~ transmitted from a ~~the~~ subscriber unit to the base station.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the predetermined threshold defines a cumulative amount of data information that a ~~user~~ subscriber unit can transmit over specified period of time without the subscriber unit being assigned to a lower priority level.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the predetermined threshold varies over time.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein the previous historical usage of resources by the subscriber unit is determined by ~~comparing~~

tracking the usage of resources by the subscriber unit over a period of at least several past days.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing multiple grades of service in a ~~demand~~ wireless communication system, comprising at a base station:

~~a processor that determines when a demand for resources of a base station exceeds a predetermined threshold;~~

a processor configured to ~~that identifies~~ identify a priority level of a ~~user~~ subscriber unit requesting allocation of ~~bandwidth~~ traffic channels for transmitting data information to the base station ~~depending on~~ and allocate traffic channels for transmitting data information from the subscriber unit using the identified priority level of the subscriber unit depending on whether a previous historical usage of resources by ~~that user~~ the subscriber unit exceeds a predetermined threshold, such that

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is higher than the threshold, the processor ~~assigning~~ assigns the ~~user~~ subscriber unit of a lower priority level for transmitting data information, wherein the lower priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~to use of~~ fewer channels than are otherwise ~~allowed~~ allocated ~~when if assigned~~ a higher priority level ~~is assigned~~, and

if the previous historical usage by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit is lower than the threshold, the processor ~~assigning~~ assigns the ~~user~~ subscriber unit a higher priority level for transmitting data information, wherein the higher priority level ~~entitling~~ allocates the ~~user~~ subscriber unit ~~use of~~ more channels than are otherwise ~~allowed~~

allocated when if assigned a lower priority level ~~is assigned~~; and

the processor further configured to ~~reserving bandwidth~~ reserve traffic channels for the users a plurality of subscriber units assigned at the lowest priority levels and ~~creating~~ create a lowest priority queue to allow at least some access to ~~users~~ the traffic channels to the plurality of subscriber units ~~with~~ assigned the lowest priority; and

the processor further configured to ~~allocating~~ allocate bandwidth traffic channels to the ~~user~~ subscriber unit depending upon the subscriber unit's ~~corresponding~~ assigned priority level ~~so identified~~ ~~when the resources requested of the base station exceeds the~~ ~~predetermined threshold.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the identified priority level of the subscriber unit requesting allocation of traffic channels ~~for transmitting data~~ defines a maximum continuous allocation of resources ~~entitled to~~ for the user subscriber unit to transmit data information from ~~a~~ the subscriber unit to the base station over ~~multiple assigned~~ the allocated traffic channels of the wireless communication system.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 12 wherein:

the processor is configured to detects whether a predetermined time limit for the allocated traffic channels has been exceeded for a continuous transmission of data information based on ~~a corresponding~~ the assigned priority level of the ~~user~~ subscriber unit and, if so:

the processor is configured to ~~discontinues a data transfer~~ the transmission of data information by the ~~user~~ subscriber unit;

the processor is configured to deallocate use of previously assigned allocated channels; and

the processor is configured to decrease the priority level of the subscriber unit to a lower priority level, the lower priority ~~entitling~~ allocating the user subscriber unit to use of fewer channels than otherwise allowed when a higher priority level is assigned.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the processor is configured to allocate resources to the a-user subscriber unit depending on a cumulative amount of data information previously ~~transferred~~ transmitted from a the subscriber unit to the base station.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the predetermined threshold defines a cumulative amount of data information that a ~~user~~ subscriber unit can transmit over a specified period of time without the subscriber unit being assigned to a lower priority level.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the predetermined threshold varies over time.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the processor is configured to determine the previous historical usage of resources by the subscriber unit by comparing tracking the usage of resources by the subscriber unit over a period of at least several past days.

18.-24. Canceled.